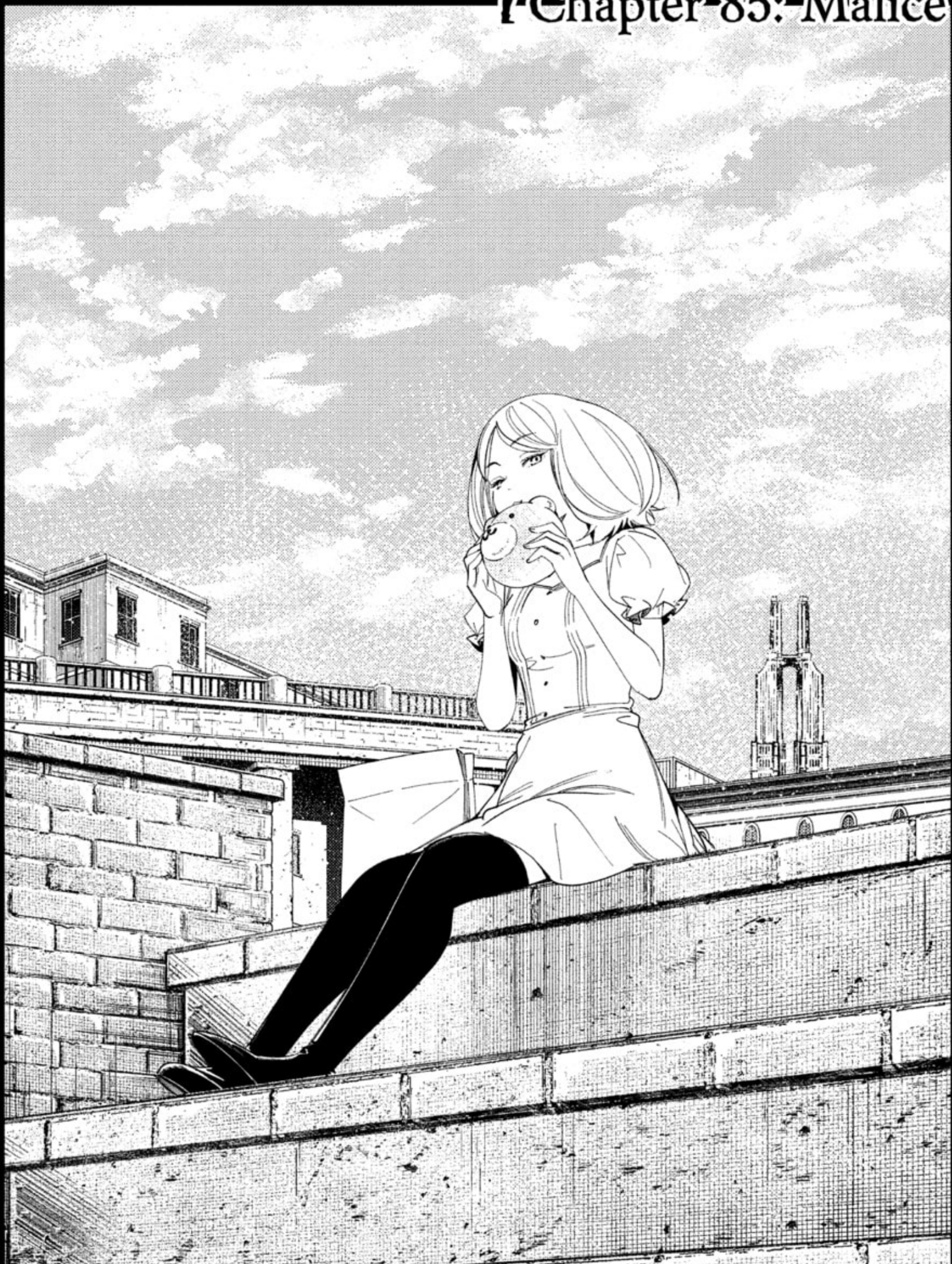
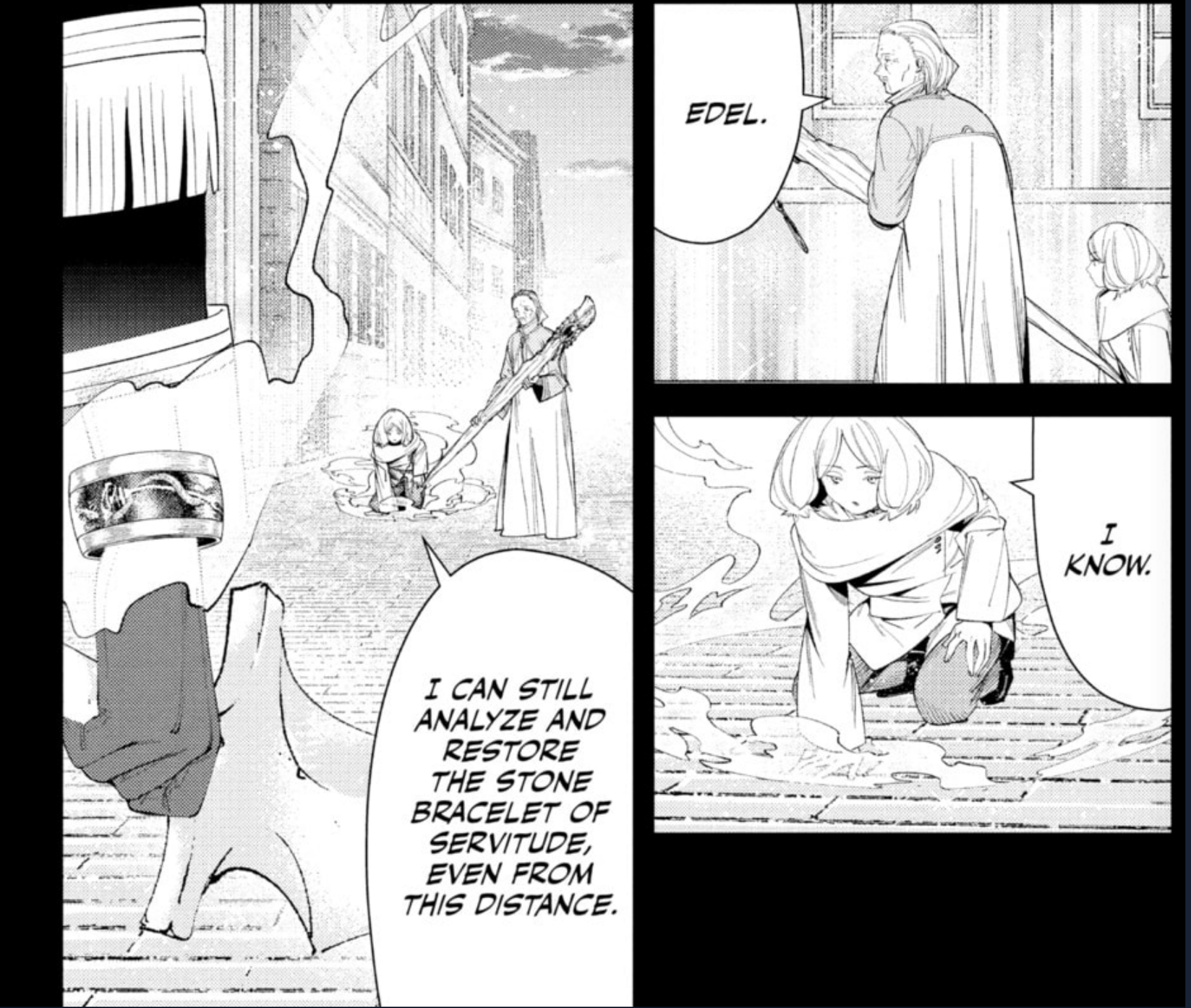
Chapter 85: Malice




I CAN STILL ANALYZE AND RESTORE THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE, EVEN FROM THIS DISTANCE.
EDEL.
I KNOW.

SO IT COULD BE A LONG BATTLE THEN.
I'VE BEEN ITCHING TO FIGHT.
I CAN BUY YOU TIME. HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED?

THAT DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH I NEED TO RESTORE.

HE'S NOT IMMEDIATELY TRYING TO TURN ME INTO GOLD.
HE DOESN'T
HIS

SEE ME AS THE SLIGHTEST THREAT.
PRIORITY MUST BE TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF ME.

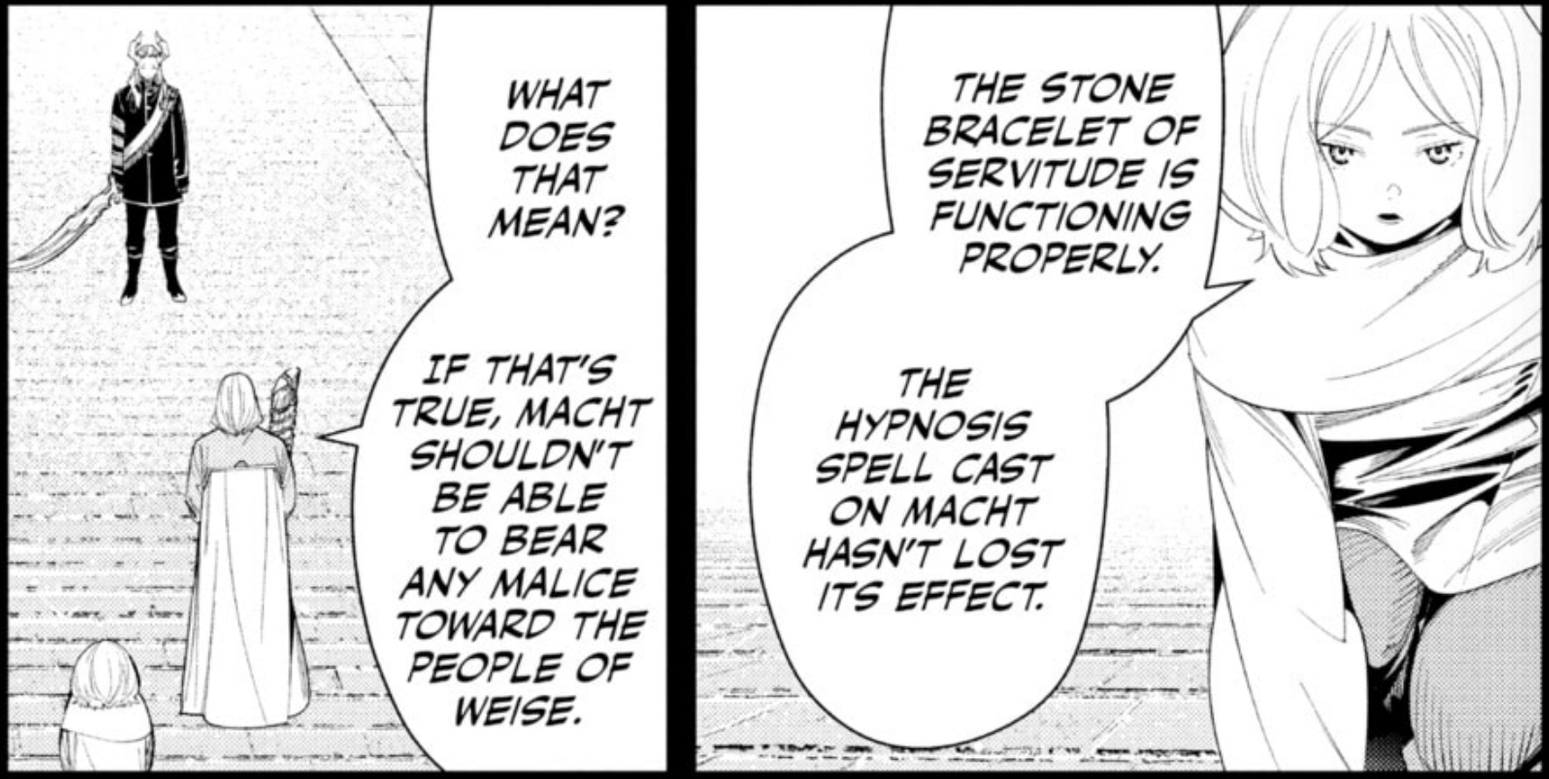
I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT.
I'M FAR FROM BEING A MASTER OF MAGIC...
...BUT I'VE NEVER LOST A BATTLE TO BUY TIME.

WOOSH

HE'S ANNOYING TO FIGHT.
BUT ONLY ANNOYING.
I CAN TELL HE'S NOT FIGHTING TO KILL.
WHAT ARE YOU ACTUALLY AFTER?

VOOM
YOU'RE

TRYING
O REPAIR
HE STONE
RACELET
OF
ERVITUDE.
I
SEE.
IN
THAT
CASE,
YOUR
EFFORTS
ARE IN
VAIN.
LERNEN.
I
HAVE
BAD
NEWS.
YOU
DO?
NOT
WHAT
I
WANT
TO
HEAR.

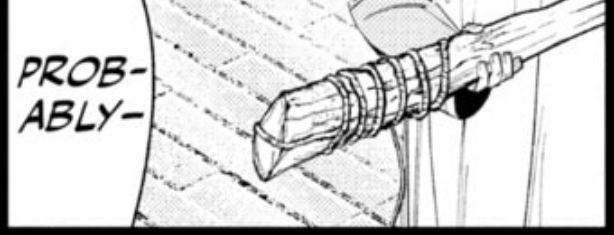

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IF THAT'S TRUE, MACHT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BEAR ANY MALICE TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF WEISE.
THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.
THE HYPNOSIS SPELL CAST ON MACHT HASN'T LOST ITS EFFECT.

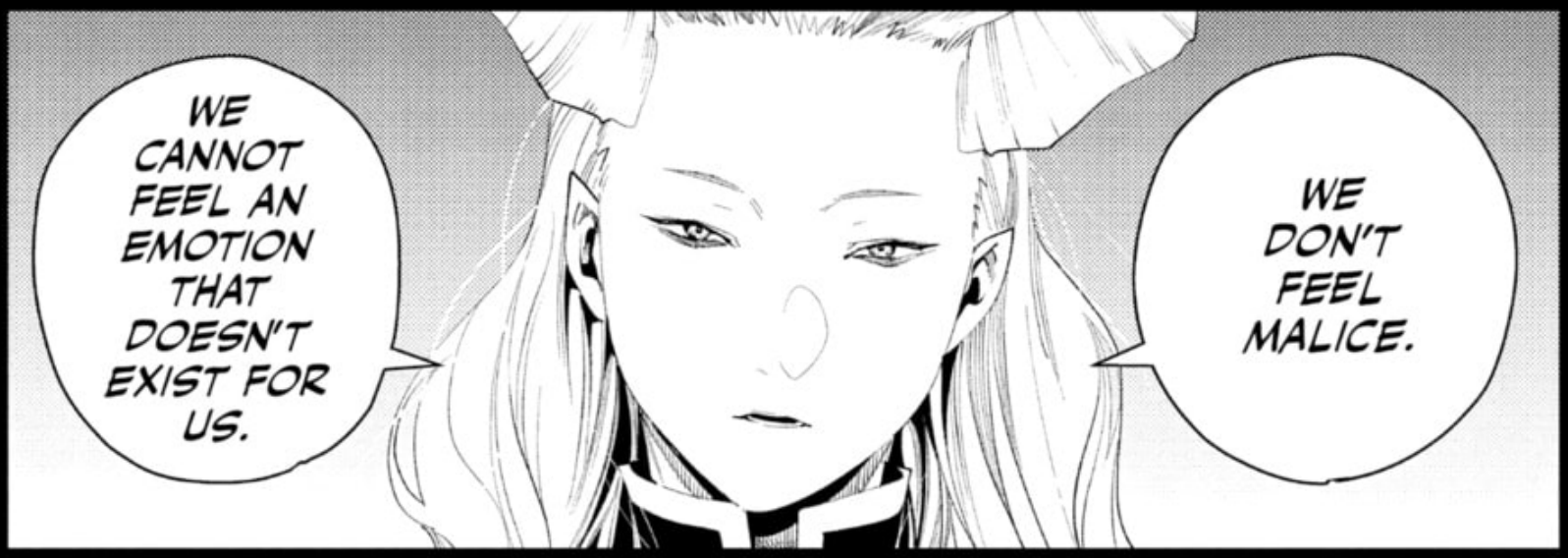
THERE'S NO WAY HE COMMITTED THESE ACTS WITHOUT MALICE.
AND YET HE'S TURNED THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE INTO GOLD.

WE DEMONS KNOW THE WORD "MALICE," BUT...
...WE DON'T HAVE ANY

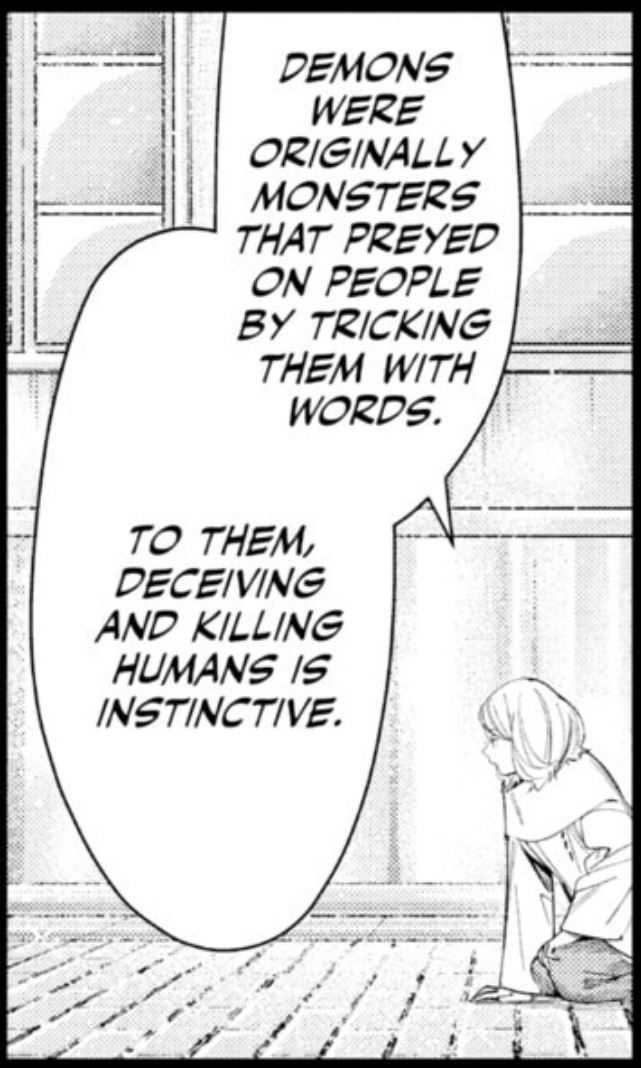
EDEL. PLEASE SHARE YOUR OPINION ON THIS.

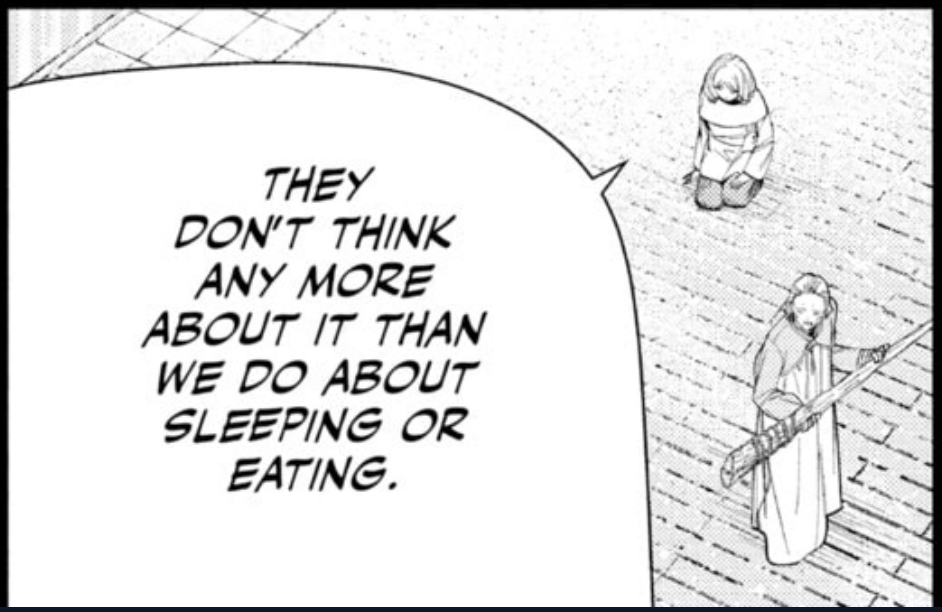
CONCEPT OF IT.


PROB-
ABLY-

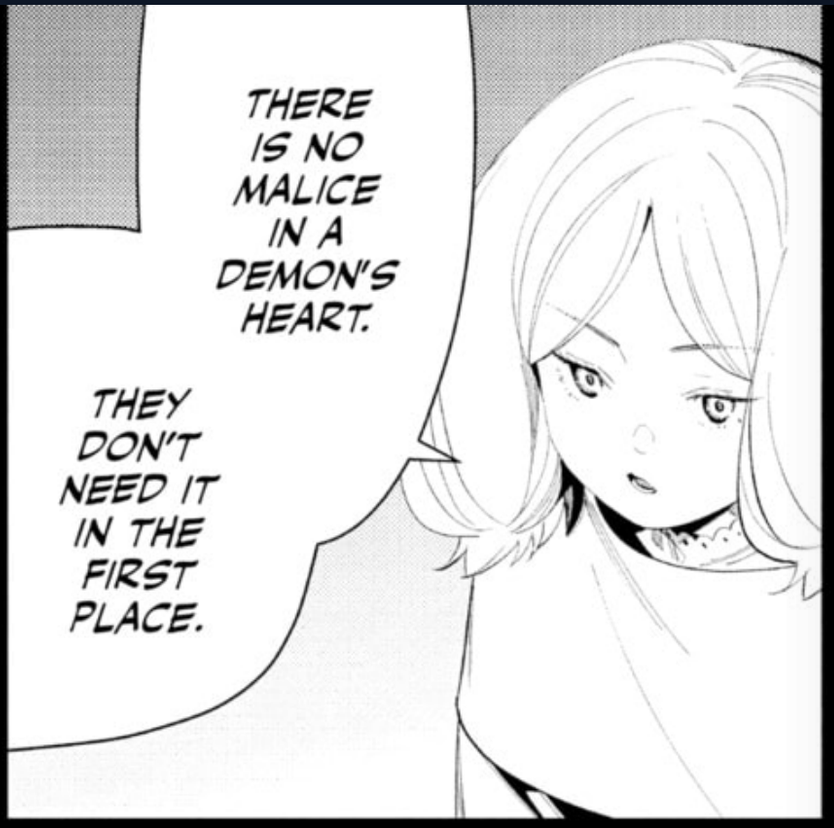

WE CANNOT FEEL AN EMOTION THAT DOESN'T EXIST FOR US.
WE DON'T FEEL MALICE.

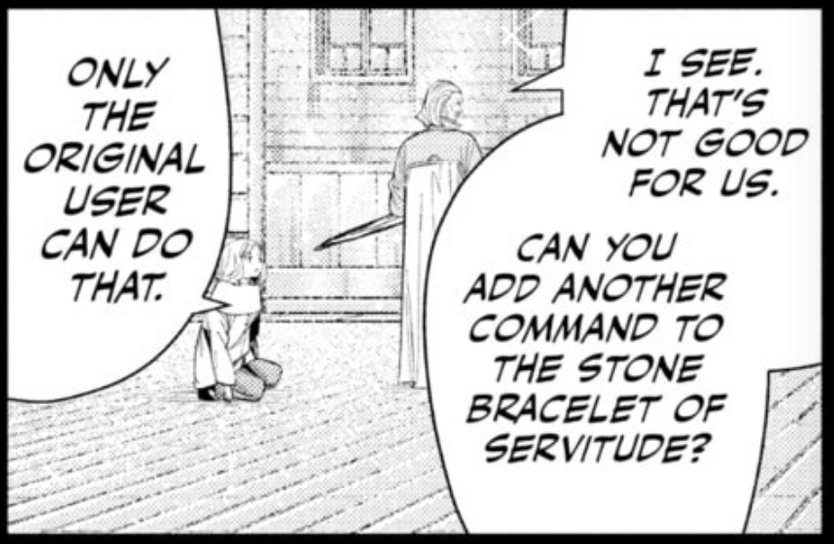
THIS IS SIMPLY A DRIVE THEY WERE BORN WITH.
THEY DON'T NEED AN EMOTIONAL REASON TO HARM HUMANS.

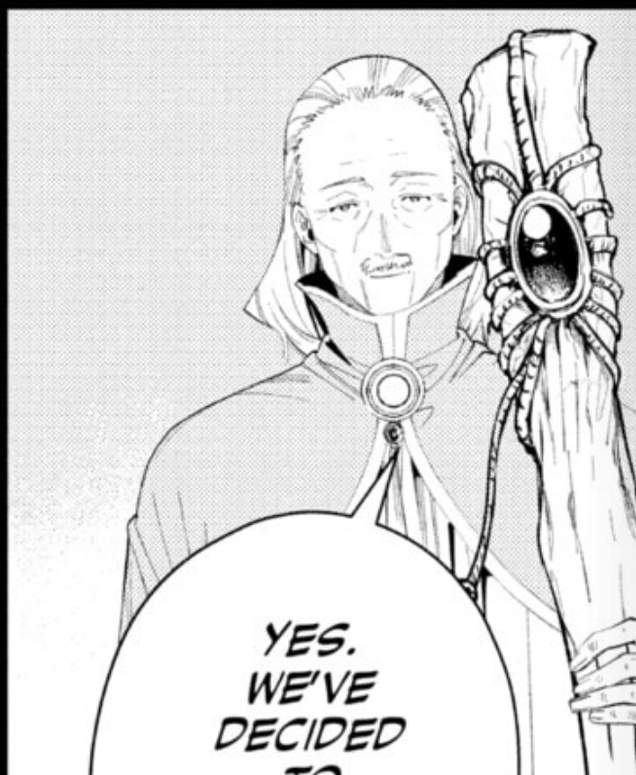

DEMONS WERE ORIGINALLY MONSTERS THAT PREYED ON PEOPLE BY TRICKING THEM WITH WORDS.
TO THEM, DECEIVING AND KILLING HUMANS IS INSTINCTIVE.


THEY DON'T THINK ANY MORE ABOUT IT THAN WE DO ABOUT SLEEPING OR EATING.

ARE YOU DONE DISCUSSING YOUR STRATEGY?


THERE IS NO MALICE IN A DEMON'S HEART.
THEY DON'T NEED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.


I SEE. THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR US.
CAN YOU ADD ANOTHER COMMAND TO THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE?
ONLY THE ORIGINAL USER CAN DO THAT.


YES. WE'VE DECIDED TO

I HOPED I'D BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU DOWN...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A COWARD WHO DOES BETTER BEHIND THE SCENES.

...BUT I LEARNED THAT I SHOULDN'T AIM TOO HIGH.

TO RETREAT FOR NOW.

MY ACTUAL GOAL WAS TO GATHER INFORMATION.

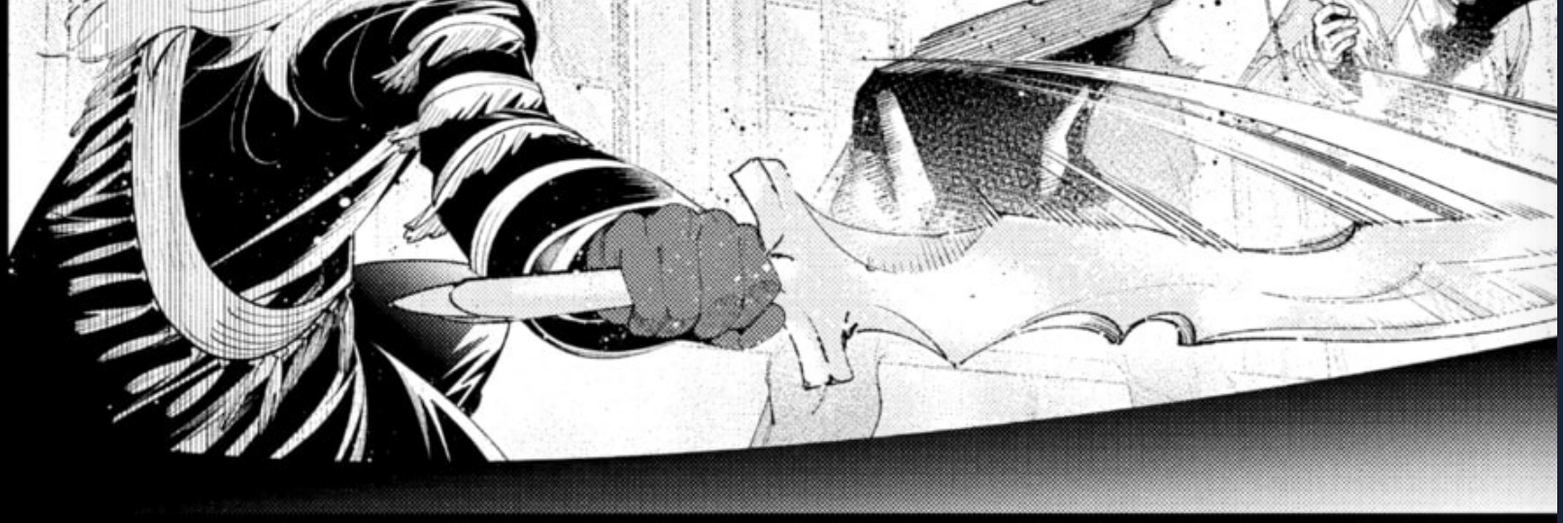
AND SO I SHALL LET MY BRAVE FRIEND HAVE THE GLORY OF VICTORY...

...AND I WILL ACCEPT THIS FACT AND FOCUS ON GATHERING INFORMATION MYSELF.

FORTU-

BOY

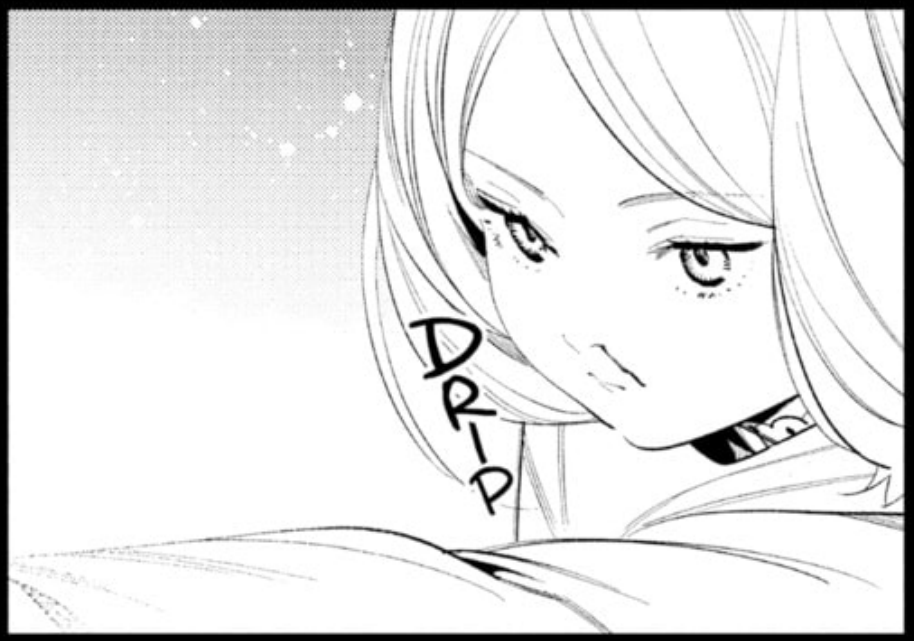
WHY DON'T WE MAKE A FRESH START NEXT TIME?
NATELY, WE HAVEN'T FULLY REVEALED WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF.
I'M SPEECH-LESS.
I'LL RETURN AGAIN SOON.
I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL YOU SHOW YOUR HAND.



DO YOU THINK I WOULD LET YOU DO THAT?

YOU SEEM TO THINK...

...THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE FIGHTING AGAINST YOU.
EDEL IS NOT


ARIA

STRONG BY ANY MEANS...
...BUT SHE IS A FAR BRAVER MAGE THAN ME.

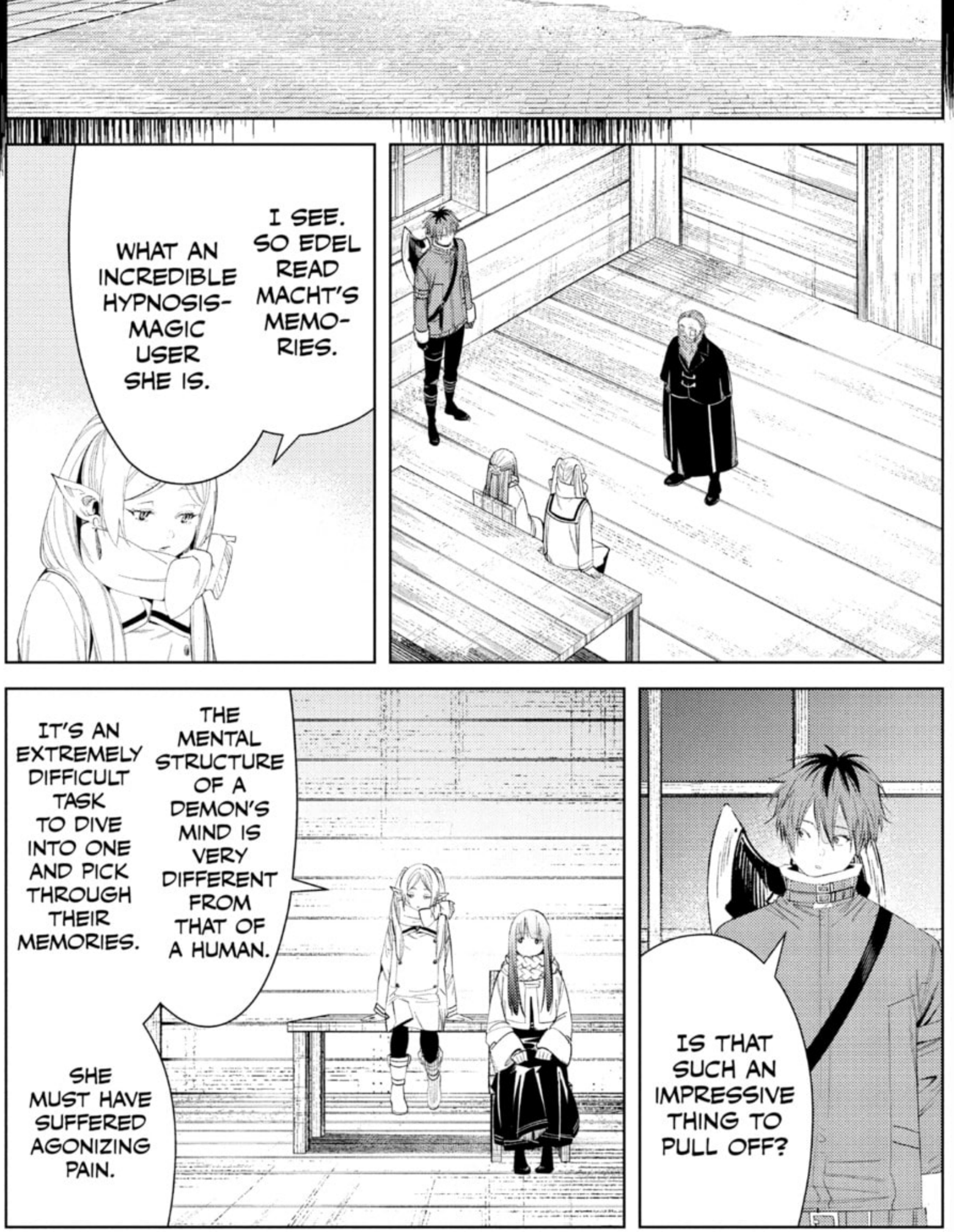
BOW

ASTOUND-
ING.
YOU
READ MY
MEMORIES.

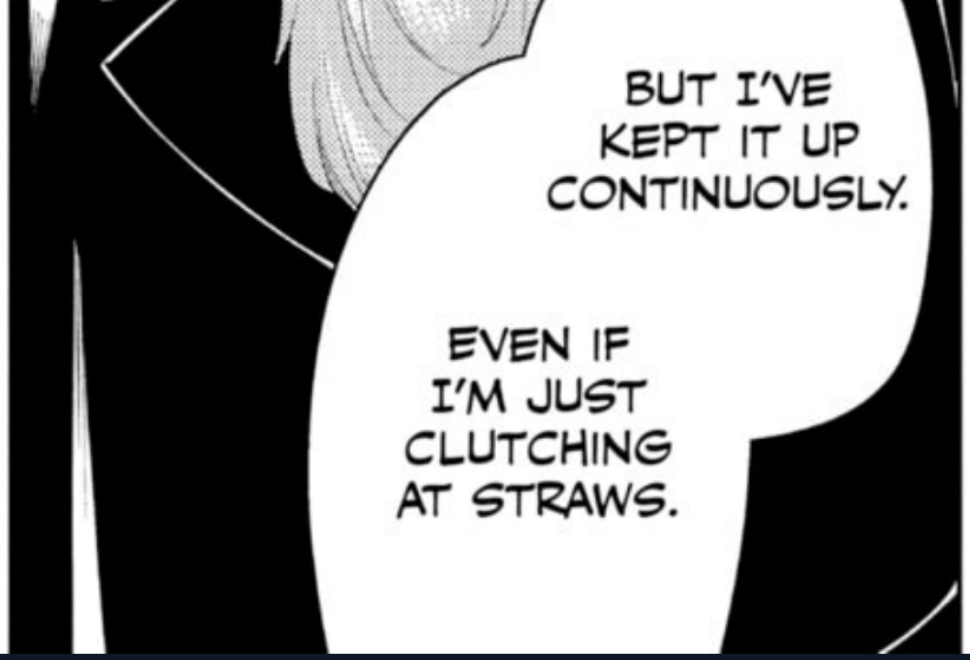
IT
SEEMS
THAT WE
WON'T
NEED TO
RETURN
HERE
AFTER
ALL.

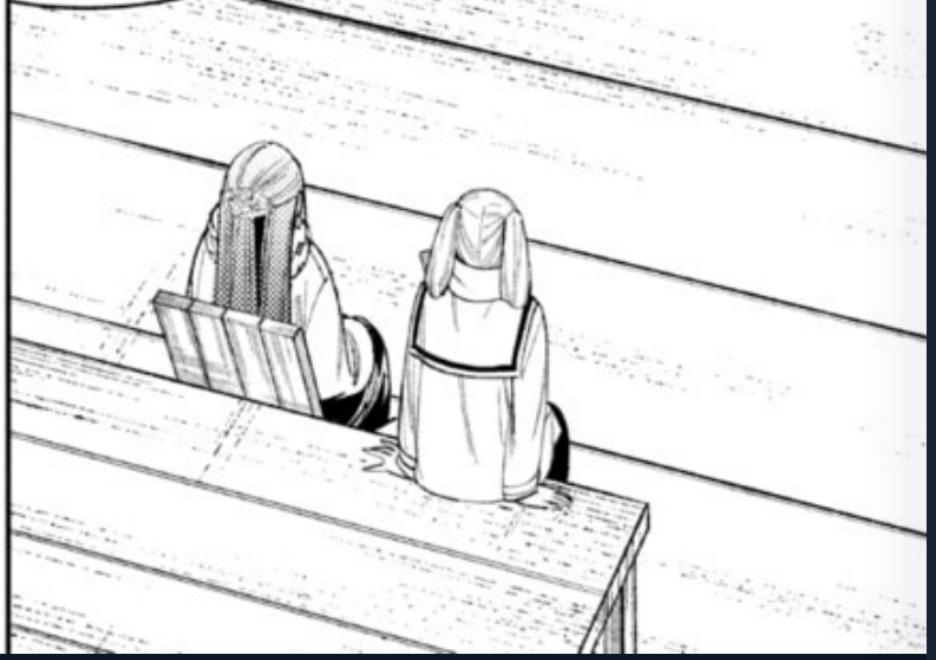
EXCEL-
LENT
JOB,
EDEL.
YOU
MADE
ME
PROUD.
WE
HAVE
THE
INFOR-
MATION
WE
NEED.

BOOM


I SEE. SO EDEL READ MACHT'S MEMO-RIES.
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE HYPNOSIS-MAGIC USER SHE IS.
THE MENTAL STRUCTURE OF A DEMON'S MIND IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A HUMAN.
IT'S AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK TO DIVE INTO ONE AND PICK THROUGH THEIR MEMORIES.
SHE MUST HAVE SUFFERED AGONIZING PAIN.
IS THAT SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE THING TO PULL OFF?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE SUN IS SET-TING.
IT'S ABOUT TIME.
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT MACHT'S MEMORIES AFTER FINISHING MY BUSINESS.
DISCUS-SIONS WITH WHOM?
I'VE BEEN VISITING THE GOLDEN LAND EVERY DAY.
AND I'VE BEEN HAVING DISCUS-SIONS.
I'VE BEEN HAVING A CONVER-SATION WITH A DEMON.
IN OTHER WORDS, WASTING MY TIME.





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